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MAY 15.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-five persons present.

The following were presented for publication :—

“ *Pinus Koraiensis*,” by Josiah Hoopes.

“ On the Fishes of the Lakes of the Western Part of the Great Basin,” by Edw. D. Cope.

*Observations on Forsythia*.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, at the meeting of the Botanical Section, May 14, referred to his communication to the Academy (December 29, 1868), in which he suggested that notwithstanding the strong specific differences between *Forsythia viridissima* and *F. suspensa*, he believed they must have had a common origin. *F. suspensa* has short styles and long stamens, broad lobes to the corolla, broadly-ovate, thin, glaucous, sometimes trifoliate, deeply serrate leaves, and makes a shrub of some ten feet high, with numerous slender, pendulous branches. *F. viridissima* is a stiff, erect bush, but of not half the height, with narrowly lanceolate, thick, bright green, lightly serrate leaves; flowers with narrow lobes, and the style long and the stamens short. *F. suspensa*, in cultivation, often produces abortive capsules; *F. viridissima* rarely, if ever. In the paper cited above, an account is given of the production of seed-vessels on *F. viridissima*, by using the pollen of *F. suspensa*. Though the seeds were not wholly perfect, a winged seed of one species was produced among the wingless ones of the other. The resultant impression from those observations was that in spite of what would be regarded as good specific differences, they are but dimorphic forms, referable to sexual peculiarities.

Three years ago, the usually seedless capsules of *F. suspensa* produced a number of good seeds, which were sown. This season thirty-four flowered. The leaves and general habit of these plants present every shade of gradation between *F. suspensa* and *F. viridissima*; some of the leaves of the latter being even much more slender than those of the original species. The flowers also present in the larger number of cases the slender lobes of the *F. viridissima*; some with the lobes recurved laterally to such an extent as to seem much narrower than they are.

The most interesting fact in connection with this is the sexual characteristics. Of the thirty-four plants, raised from a parent having a short style and long stamens, only four have retained this parental character, but have assumed that belonging to the form *viridissima*.

Some interesting questions are suggested by these observations :